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**TAVISTOCK RURAL DISTRICT**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR  
1972**

Report presented by:

**The Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health  
Inspector**



# TAVISTOCK RURAL DISTRICT

## ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1972

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# TAVISTOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee was Mr. A. W. FRIEND with Mr. E. R. W. C. JAGO as Vice-Chairman.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (LON.), M.F.C.M.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.CH., B.SC., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

W. E. LARGE, CERT. OF MEAT AND FOODS. R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

A. A. CRAWFORD, CERT. R.S.A.S., Testamur of Institute of Public Cleansing. (Until 31-8-72)

Additional Public Health Inspectors

E. G. JOHN, CERT. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

J. H. HARRISON, D.I.P. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I. (Until 3-8-73)

D. G. ARMITT, B.SC., DIP. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I. (From 16-10-72)

S. C. CLEMENTS, DIP. P.H.I.E.B. (From 23-10-72)

Technical Assistants

W. C. FOSTER. F.G. OF S.

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# **TAVISTOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE**

### **AREA DURING 1972**

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#### **PREFACE**

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the Area during 1972. Included in the Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

#### **STATISTICS**

The Registrar General estimated the population to be 24,040 which is 200 fewer than last year. Births at 325 and Deaths at 332 nearly balanced out. The Standardised Birth Rate at 16.7 is above the National Average of 14.8 per thousand persons. The Standardised Death Rate at 13.8 per thousand population is not only higher than last year but is also slightly above the National Average of 12.1. There were six infant deaths giving an infantile mortality rate of 18.0 per thousand births. This is almost half the rate for last year and is only just above the National Rate of 17.0. Two deaths were due to congenital defects and four were due to difficult labour or birth injuries or prematurity.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Early in the year controversy was whipped up by the press and radio over a report by an eminent Canadian Geologist that a high incidence of multiple sclerosis and cancer in the West Country was due to trace elements in the soil and in vegetables. I make no apologies for reproducing my Report on this subject which I presented to the Tavistock Rural District Council on February 10th, 1972.

#### **Trace Elements, Multiple Sclerosis and Cancer**

Last week much publicity was given by the press, radio and television to a Report by an eminent Canadian Geologist which appeared in the Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners, suggesting that high amounts of metals such as lead, molybdenum and zinc found in vegetables could explain why people living in certain areas were particularly prone to cancer and multiple sclerosis.

I have read this Report in its entirety. The geologist (Professor Harry V. Warren) is careful to state "So far the work does not justify the presentation of statistically sound data as far as normal values are concerned. This (Report) is therefore a 'reconnaissance in force' ". Again in the section dealing with a possible relationship between trace elements and diseases he says, "Attempts to correlate trace elements and epidemiology are at present speculative and must be left until more thorough and well integrated studies are completed".

I am essentially a practical medical officer of health and I have no desire to get involved in highly scientific problems as posed by a high

powered geologist in Canada. But the Report that was published has caused much distress in some localities. Let me try to allay those fears.

The late Dr. Allen-Price initiated research into a possible relationship between cancer in certain areas and the presence of trace elements in soil and drinking water. Whereas he found a high incidence of cancer confined to small pockets in particular localities there were also other pockets of exceptionally low occurrence elsewhere so that the total incidence of cancer for the whole area was no worse than the National Average.

Lead and molybdenum are two of the trace elements mentioned by the Geologist. My colleague Dr. Mary Budding did a controlled survey of school children at Bere Alston in the Tamar Valley in 1965/66 where there is a high level of lead in the soil, and at Hatherleigh in north-west Devon where there is a low level of lead in the soil. She found no evidence of disease and no significant differences between the results of tests on human beings in those two areas, and concluded that the presence of lead in the soil was no real hazard.

In this connection the Geologist relates a high level of lead to multiple sclerosis, but I have absolutely no evidence that there is an undue amount of multiple sclerosis in those parts of the Tavistock Rural Area known to have a high lead content in the soil.

Similarly in 1970 I reported on the possibility of poisoning by molybdenum and could find no evidence of human illness due to this element although there is a wealth of knowledge about the effects of molybdenum on herbivorous animals. Molybdenum is eliminated rapidly from the human body and any transient effects it may have had are nullified by the usual traces of copper found in a normal mixed diet.

From a practical viewpoint there is nothing we can do about the high mineral content of soil in certain localities. If the example of molybdenum being 'neutralised' by copper is anything to go by and the fact that small quantities of lead can be 'fixed' by an intake of calcium in the diet, then I feel sure that Mother Nature in providing us with a mixed and varied diet somehow manages to ward off the various evils that may beset us. Otherwise how else would the human race have survived for so long?

One final point is that a large amount of the vegetables grown locally in the Tamar Valley is exported to other parts of the country, yet we hear nothing of an increased incidence of illness in those consumer areas.

I am of opinion that the whole concept of illness due to trace elements is without reliable foundation and that much more detailed research is needed before this theory can be substantiated.

### **The Ugandan Asian Refugees**

In mid-October the Government announced that Plaister Down Camp, Tavistock was to be opened to receive some 850 Ugandan Asian refugees. A camp administrator was appointed and in the space of just a few days the camp became operational.

There was excellent co-operation between all the agencies involved, not forgetting the invaluable work carried out by voluntary organisations. The Medical Centre was opened and was staffed by a rota of local General

Medical Practitioners who held surgeries there. In addition the Devon County Council departmental medical officers in the area formed a team, together with nurses and health visitors to screen and medically examine each immigrant upon arrival. The Chest Radiography Service sent a mobile X-Ray Unit to the Camp and all those over 13 years received a chest x-ray on arrival.

The Asians were most charming people and arrived at the Camp in an exhausted state after such a long and tedious journey from Uganda. Mostly they arrived by motor coach from London Airport in the early hours of the morning. The huts they occupied were centrally heated which was just as well as the Camp soon experienced its first fall of snow for the winter. The Asian children had never experienced snow before and quite enjoyed themselves.

From a medical viewpoint no insuperable problems were encountered. Asthma and cardiac conditions prevailed. Several young women were pregnant and had their babies in hospital at Plymouth soon after arrival at Plaisterdown. There were also a number of diabetics. Acting upon advice received that Asian children who caught Measles were prone to severe chest complications, arrangements were made to vaccinate all the children there between one year and 18 years against measles. Plans were also made to give B.C.G. vaccine (anti-tuberculosis) to the children but they left the camp before this could be done.

The Devon County Council also started a weekly family planning clinic at the camp.

The catering arrangements at the camp appeared to work well and although the catering officer went to a great deal of trouble to produce Asian type meals, strangely enough a substantial number of the Asians preferred English type food!

There was a great community spirit amongst the Asians and they formed a management committee which co-operated extremely well with the staff of the camp administrator. By and large the Asians were well educated and many were business and professional people—including two doctors and several school teachers.

From the moment the Asians arrived, the Uganda Resettlement Board set about its task of finding jobs and homes for these refugees. Many joined relatives in the midlands and some found jobs and homes in Devon and Cornwall. In November it was announced that before Christmas the camp was to close down. At that time the camp held 570 refugees. About 200 proceeded to private homes all over the country and the remainder went to similar camps at Watchet and Yeovil in Somerset. It was a great experience working at the centre and the co-operation of paid staff and volunteers, particularly on the medical side was superb.

Comments about infectious illnesses are given in the appropriate section of this Report.

I wish to thank all members of the staff, and the Council, for their help and encouragement during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN  
Medical Officer of Health

December, 1973

## SECTION 'A'

### VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS, 1972

**TABLE 1**

(Figures for 1971 are shown in brackets)

#### **Population**

Estimated mid-year population of Tavistock Rural District	...	...	...	24,040	(24,240)
--	-----	-----	-----	--------	----------

#### **General Statistics (1st April)**

Area of Tavistock Rural District in Acres	...	153,207	
Number of Parishes	...	26	
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books	...	8,200	(8,040)
Number of Houses per acre	...	0.054	(0.052)
Number of persons per acre	...	0.157	(0.158)
Number of Persons per house	...	2.932	(3.014)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	1,118	(1,142)
Rateable Value of District	...	£794,559	(£773,513)
Sum represented by a new Penny Rate	...	£7,450	(£7,310)

**TABLE 2**

(Figures for 1971 are shown in brackets)

#### **Births**

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	16.7	(15.4)
Area Comparability Factor for Births	...	1.24	(1.20)
Number of Live Births:		Males	Females
Total	...	179	146
Legitimate	...	171	142
Illegitimate	...	8	4
Number of Still Births	...	3	3
			Total
			325
			313
			12
			6

#### **Deaths**

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.8	(11.1)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.85	(0.80)
Number of Deaths:	Males	Females
All Ages: Total	164	168
Death of Infants under 1 year	3	3
Number under 4 weeks of age	3	2
Number under 1 week of age	3	2
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	18.0	(32.0)
		Total
		332
		6
		5
		5
		332

#### **Comparison with Rates for England and Wales**

Birth Rate	...	...	14.8	(16.0)
Death Rate	...	...	12.1	(11.6)
Infantile Mortality Rate (infants under 1 year of age)	...	...	17.0	(18.0)

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Notifiable Diseases—Cases Notified during 1972**

**TABLE 1**

Disease	Total	Age Group in Years					
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles . . . .	7	0	4	3	0	0	0
Infective Jaundice .	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs) .	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Malaria (contracted abroad) . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

**TABLE 2**

Disease	Total	Incidence by Quarters			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles . . . .	7	2	0	3	2
Infective Jaundice .	1	1	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs) .	1	0	0	0	1
Malaria (contracted abroad) . . . .	1	0	0	0	1

## Tuberculosis—Chest Radiography Service

A report on the surveys carried out in 1972 is as follows:—  
**Bedford Square, Tavistock**

		Male	Female	Total
Number examined (includes 24 G.P. referrals)		174	191	365
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	...	1	1	2
Bronchial Carcinoma	...	1	0	1
Goitre	...	0	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	1	0	1
Dorsal scoliosis	...	0	1	1

## UGANDAN ASIAN REFUGEES—PLASTER DOWN CAMP, TAVISTOCK

**Between October 16th and November 3rd, 1972**

		Male	Female	Total
Numbers Examined	...	290	308	598
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	...	1	0	1
Congenital Cardiac Lesions	...	2	0	2
Acquired Cardiac Lesions	...	1	3	4
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the lungs	0	1	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	1	0	1
Dorsal scoliosis	...	1	0	1
Pleural thickening	...	0	1	1

I am indebted to Dr. J. Dawson, Consultant Chest Physician for permission to reproduce the following figures from his Report:—

## ANNUAL REPORT DEVON COUNTY CLINICAL AREA

### Tuberculosis—Vital Statistics

#### Notifications

The number of notified cases of tuberculosis during the year amounted to 5 respiratory forms of tuberculosis; there was 1 non-respiratory notification.

**TABLE 1**

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Male	Female	Male	Female
3	2	1	—

**TABLE 2**

#### Source of Notified cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis

Year	M.M.R.	Gen.	G.P.	School Medical	Other		Total
		Pract.	X-ray	Service	Contacts	Hospitals	
1972	2	—	—	—	—	3	5

**TABLE 3**

#### Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis

Notifications		Deaths		Deaths in non-notified Persons	
Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.
5	1	2	1	1	—

#### Deaths

During the year there were 4 deaths of patients on the Chest Clinic Register. In 3 cases tuberculosis was registered as the cause of death, and was the prominent cause. In 1 case it was an incidental factor.

#### Clinic Register

An analysis of the number of patients on the 'live' Chest Clinic Register at the end of the year is shown in Table 4.

**TABLE 4**

	Male	Female	Children	Total
Respiratory tuberculosis	30	17	5	52
Non-Respiratory tuberculosis	—	1	1	2

#### Chest Clinic and Hospital Work

Attendances	New Cases	New	Re-attendances	Total
	Referred	Contacts		
Beaumont House	99	1	181	281
Launceston	2	—	11	13
Tavistock	35	—	123	158
	136	1	315	452

**TABLE 5**  
**General Practitioners Open X-ray Session**

Referred by G.P's	169
Contacts/Old Cases	79

**X-ray Session (large film)**

This weekly x-ray session is attended by patients who have 'recovered' from pulmonary tuberculosis and who are x-rayed annually. The number of patients who attended during 1972 was 4.

**TABLE 6**  
**Bacteriology of new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis**

Total No. Notified	No. sputum Positive	No. infected with Resistant strain
5	4	—

**Chronic Sputum Positive Cases**

There are no chronic sputum positive cases in the West Devon Area.

**B.C.C. Vaccination**

During the year, 18 cases were vaccinated against tuberculosis.

**INFECTIONS COMMON TO FARM ANIMALS AND MAN**

Amongst the four Rural Districts of South West Devon (Kingsbridge, Plympton, Tavistock, Totnes), a total of 31 outbreaks of Salmonella infection and 5 outbreaks of Brucellosis were reported during 1972. This is an improvement over the 1971 figures (Salmonella 49, Brucellosis 6).

District	Salmonella	Brucellosis
Kingsbridge Rural District	6	1
Plympton Rural District	5	2
Tavistock Rural District	14	0
Totnes Rural District	6	2
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	31	5
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Thirty of the Salmonella outbreaks were due to Salmonella dublin and one was due to Salmonella typhimurium. In these outbreaks 16 animals died. One of the cows in a Brucellosis outbreak was slaughtered. Milk at all the farms was already sent for pasteurisation and no human cases of illness were discovered.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951**

No action was necessary during 1972 for the compulsory removal of persons in accordance with the above Acts.

No burials took place under Section 50 of the Act.

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1972

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
B19 (1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	2	1	3
B19 (2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	2
B19 (3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	1	4
B19 (4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	6	7
B19 (5) Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	0	1
B19 (6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	17	6	23
B19 (7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	8	8
B19 (8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2	2
B19 (9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	7	—	7
B19 (10) Leukaemia	3	1	4
B19 (11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	14	13	27
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	0	3	3
B46 (1) Other Endocrine etc. diseases	1	0	1
B23 Anaemias	1	0	1
B46 (3) Mental Disorders	1	1	2
B46 (1) Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	1	0	1
B23 Anaemias	1	0	1
B46 (3) Mental Disorders	1	1	2
B46 (5) Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	0	1
B27 Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	47	37	84
B29 Other forms of Heart Disease	2	4	6
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	15	39	54
B46 (6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	6	13
B31 Influenza	1	0	1
B32 Pneumonia	15	19	34
B33 (1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	1	9
B33 (2) Asthma	1	0	1
B46 (7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
B34 Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	0	1	1
B46 (8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	0	3	3
B46 (9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	2	3
B46 (10) Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	1	0	1
B46 (11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1	2
B42 Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	1	3
B45 Symptoms of Ill Defined Conditions	0	1	1
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	3	7
BE48 All other Accidents	0	1	1
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	0	2	2
BE50 All other External Causes	1	0	1
 TOTAL ALL CAUSES	 164	 168	 332

## SECTION 'B'

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR TAVISTOCK RURAL DISTRICT

### LABORATORY SERVICE

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Plymouth (Telephone: Plymouth 63997).

### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

The following are some of the County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, Health Department, County Hall, Exeter.

#### Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service in the Tavistock Rural District is radio controlled from headquarters at Plympton (Telephone: Plymouth 36414). It is operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council. Except in emergency, an Ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

#### Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres

There are a Senior Nursing Officer and eight District Nurses and Midwives and three Health Visitors. There are four Welfare Centres:

D.C.C. Clinic, 70 Plymouth Road, Tavistock (Telephone: Tavistock 2617)

Methodist Schoolroom, Horrabridge

Ladies' Club, Princetown

The Lifton Primary School Annexe (Old Police Station).

#### Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis Immunisation

A Medical Officer at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents.

First Friday in each month: Tavistock—morning and afternoon

First Monday in each month: Horrabridge—afternoon

Second Wednesday in each month: Lifton—afternoon

Fourth Wednesday in each month: Princetown—afternoon

#### Chiropody Service

A County Council Chiropodist operates a Foot Clinic at the D.C.C. Clinic, 73 Plymouth Road, Tavistock (Telephone: Tavistock 3533). Treatment is available for handicapped persons, the elderly and any expectant mother who might be in need of chiropody. Most cases are referred to the clinic by the family doctor, but there is provision for health visitors, district nurses and voluntary agencies to refer cases to the County Medical Officer.

## **Health Centre**

There is a Health Centre at Yelverton.

## **Hospital Services**

The Rural District is served by the Plymouth and District Hospital Management Committee and there are hospitals at Plymouth and Tavistock.

## **General Practitioner, Medical and Dental Services**

There are thirteen General Medical Practitioners and five Dentists in the Tavistock area. The School Dental Clinic is at the D.C.C. Clinic, 70 Plymouth Road, Tavistock. (Telephone: Tavistock 2617).

## **SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (Devon County Council)**

This operates from premises at Guildhall Square, Tavistock, (Telephone Tavistock 3666).

Application for the following services should be made to the Area Director of Social Services at the above address:—

### **Home and Domestic Help:**

A charge may be made according to the County Council's assessment scale.

Social work help or hospital treatment on the recommendation of a medical practitioner for persons suffering from mental illness or sub-normality.

Social work services to schools:

Help for children deprived of a normal home life

Playgroups or child minders

Help for physically handicapped, blind and aged persons and homeless families.

Occupational Therapy

Meals on Wheels

This is still operated by the W.R.V.S. Inquiries in the first instance should be made to Tavistock 2310. The meals in Tavistock are cooked at Harewood House, and in the rural areas at the helpers' own kitchens.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

There is a Rest Room for the elderly in Duke Street, Tavistock, run by a voluntary Committee.

There is one Old People's Home, Harewood House, Plymouth Road, Tavistock, run by the Devon County Council.

Blood Transfusion Donor Sessions at Tavistock are arranged by the B.R.C.S., Red Cross House, West Street, Tavistock.

Cytology Clinic Sessions for the early detection of cancer in women are held each month at the D.C.C. Clinic, 70 Plymouth Road, Tavistock. (Telephone: Tavistock 2617).

The Devon County Council hold a Family Planning Clinic twice a month at the D.C.C. Clinic, 70 Plymouth Road, Tavistock. (Telephone: Tavistock 2617).

## SECTION "C"

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supply

The North Devon Water Board and the Plymouth Corporation both supply water to the District:

The Chief Engineer (South) to the North Devon Water Board has submitted the following report for inclusion herein:—

The supply to this area is mainly derived from the West Okement River, the water receiving treatment in the form of sedimentation, filtration, pH correction and sterilization at Prewley Treatment Works.

This supply is supplemented in the Tavistock Parish by water from springs adjacent to the Wallabrook River which run into collecting chambers, the water then being piped to Kilworthy Treatment Works where it receives treatment in the form of filtration, pH correction and sterilization.

The source at Prewley was augmented during the summer by pumping from an emergency source at Meldon Lake, and an additional supply was obtained from Plymouth Corporation Waterworks through a temporary overland main, which supplied the Horrabridge area and relieved the high demand on Brentor Service reservoir, where extreme difficulty was experienced in maintaining levels.

The Meldon Dam which was commenced in March 1970 was opened by Mr. P. Mills, M.P. on 22nd September, 1972 and water pumped from the reservoir enabled the Board to keep Prewley Treatment Works running at full capacity and enabled the emergency supply from Meldon Lake to be discontinued.

Mains extensions and water supply schemes to serve housing developments have been undertaken where required, and the distribution system has been maintained in good order.

Satisfactory chemical and bacteriological samples, taken at regular intervals, have been obtained.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

This year saw the completion of the Contact Stabilisation Plant at Buckland Monachorum. This plant utilises the principal of extended aeration of raw sewage allied to the recirculation and aeration of the sludge. This method of sewage treatment is being utilised ever increasingly and plans are in hand for similar installations as extensions of the existing sewage treatment works at Mary Tavy and Gratton (Yelverton) with completely new works at Lydford and Lifton and Tinhay (combined scheme).

The other major contract completed this year was for the crossing of the River Tavy south of Westbridge Cottages, Tavistock with an inverted siphon. This work was long overdue, the old sewer being left in situ as a bypass at times of heavy flow and repair. The completion of this work will prevent sewage entering the river.

Preparatory work is proceeding on the replacement of some of the older sewers in Tavistock in addition to the items mentioned above. It had been hoped that these works would have been in hand during 1972 but severe setbacks have been encountered, not the least of which is the positioning of the G.P.O. trunk telephone cable. The incentive bonus scheme for the manual staff was introduced for a trial period early in the year and despite considerable initial teething troubles the various problems were overcome.

As usual there were the customary choked sewers which were dealt with expeditiously, in some instances this necessitated excavation and renewal of lengths of sewer. Provision will be made in the 1973/4 annual rate estimates for survey work to be undertaken with the aid of Closed Circuit Television in several instances where it is felt that serious problems exist in the sewers.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

The new Shelvoke and Drewry Revopak refuse vehicle should have been delivered by the end of the year but due to circumstances beyond the Manufacturer's control this was not achieved, delivery now being anticipated early in the new year. A new Pakamatic refuse vehicle will be ordered early next year to replace the last of the Fore and Aft Tippers. This will mean that when delivery is taken this Authority will own a modern fleet of refuse vehicles.

The Council continues to operate two tips, one at Crowndale and the other at Coryton. In accordance with recent policy the tip at Coryton was closed during the summer months due to the proximity of adjoining properties and the difficulties in ensuring satisfactory control. The tip at Crowndale continues to be maintained with a track laying B100 loader which was replaced during the year. Coryton tip is maintained with the aid of hired plant.

## **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

No new public conveniences were constructed this year but improvements took place particularly for the provision of these facilities at Lopwell and Leg O' Mutton, Yelverton.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following table shows the number of visits in connection with various routine work in addition to maintenance work shown under the various sections:—

		1971	1972
Public Health Acts	.	271	199
Drainage Works	.	152	87
Drain Tests	.	181	160
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	.	436	377
Refuse Collection and Tips	.	247	339
Public Conveniences	.	233	184
Rodent Control	.	389	441
Water Supplies	.	142	46
Housing Acts	.	234	201
Grants	.	548	678
Food and Drugs Act	.	316	325
Meat Inspection	.	431	483
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	.	70	8
Civic Amenities Act	.	127	77
Caravan Sites Act	.	39	14
Petroleum Acts	.	32	27
Capital Works	.	557	397
Swimming Pool	.	84	116
Other Council Properties	.	194	277
Miscellaneous	.	428	129
		<hr/> 5111	<hr/> 4168

It will be noted that this year's number of visits are lower than last year, this being due to the large increase in the amount of office work occasioned by grant applications (please see also Section "D" of this report). The Inspectorate was also the equivalent of one man under establishment for a period of five months.

**Details of Properties supplied by the North Devon Water Board  
in the Tavistock Rural District at 31st December, 1972**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Number of Domestic Properties</i>	<i>Number of Farms</i>	<i>Number of other Metered Supplies</i>	<i>Total Properties</i>	<i>Population Supplied (estimated)</i>
BERE FERRERS .	882	36	53	971	2907
BRENTOR . .	89	15	12	116	342
BRADSTONE . .	—	—	—	—	—
CORYTON . .	4	2	1	7	21
DUNTERTON . .	—	—	—	—	—
HORRABRIDGE (P.T.)	175	6	3	184	549
KELLY . .	8	2	2	12	36
LAMERTON . .	144	36	8	188	546
LEWTRENCHARD . .	49	13	10	72	210
LIFTON . .	316	19	23	358	1062
LYDFORD (P.T.) . .	115	11	9	135	399
MARYSTOWE . .	15	5	2	22	66
MARY TAVY . .	251	11	16	278	834
MILTON ABBOT . .	96	14	6	116	342
PETER TAVY . .	68	5	1	74	222
SAMPFORD SPINEY	37	5	1	43	129
STOWFORD . .	33	12	5	50	144
SYDENHAM					
DAMAREL . .	23	8	8	39	102
TAVISTOCK . .	2577	5	16	2598	6850
TAVISTOCK					
HAMLETS . .	111	31	8	150	555
THRUSHELTON . .	9	9	1	19	57
WHITCHURCH . .	64	6	2	72	216
<b>TOTAL .</b>	<b>4943</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>5443</b>	<b>14589</b>

The Plymouth Corporation supply comes from various sources at Princetown, Dousland and Burrator.

**Details of Properties Supplied by the City of Plymouth Water Department  
in the Tavistock Rural District at 31st December, 1972**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Number of Dwellings</i>	<i>Population Supplied (estimated)</i>
BUCKLAND MONACHORUM . .	954	2962
HORRABRIDGE (part) . .	372	1182
LYDFORD FOREST . .	110	360
MEAVY . .	199	654
SHEEPSTOR . .	13	53
WALKHAMPTON . .	191	703

## SECTION "D"

### HOUSING

Twenty eight Council houses were completed and taken over during the year and at 31st December, 1972 there were twenty four dwellings under construction for the Council. Thirty one Council dwellings were sold to the tenants. There were one hundred and forty two houses completed for private enterprise compared with one hundred and eighty four in 1971 and at the end of the year there were one hundred and thirty four dwellings under construction.

As forecast in last years report the publicity given by the Central Government to the grants available under the Housing Act 1971 resulted in a considerable increase in the number of applications as will be seen from the following paragraphs. The figures in parenthesis indicating the 1971 figures.

72 (41) applications for Improvement Grant were approved by this Authority, the aggregate approved expense being £114,804 (£40,665) and the aggregate grant being £84,209 (£25,504).

72 (38) applications for Standard Grant were approved with an aggregate grant of £17,349 (£9,492). 54 (24) of these applications being within the normal limits and 18 (14) had higher limits.

50 (22) Improvement Grants were paid amounting to £38,229 (£9,348).

66 (45) Standard Grants were paid towards the cost of providing 49 (41) baths, 59 (42) wash hand basins, 63 (44) hot water supplies, 41 (40) winter closets and 9 (17) baths in bathrooms, 16 (10) septic tanks and 1 (5) piped water supplies. Total amount of Standard Grant was £13,161 (£8,655).

During the year progress was made on the programme of bringing the older Council houses up to modern standards with grant aid under the provisions of the Housing Act 1971. By the end of 1972 thirty seven houses had been modernised.

Tenders had been accepted for the modernisation of forty two houses with commencement scheduled for early 1973 and schemes were in preparation for a further thirty three houses.

Six dwellings were represented as being unfit for human habitation under the provisions of the Housing Act 1957, one demolition order was made and five undertakings were accepted.

The Council continued to implement the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923 and Section 43 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 (as amended). 8 (16) applications being approved 1 (2) of which was subsequently withdrawn.

**Waiting List for Council Accommodation as at 31st December, 1972**

<i>Locality</i>	<i>Total on Waiting List</i>	<i>Agricul- tural</i>	<i>Non Agricul- tural</i>	<i>Retirement Pensioners</i>	<i>No. with Separate Homes</i>
BERE ALSTON .	27	3	20	4	19
BERE FERRERS .	1	—	1	—	1
BRENTOR .	1	1	—	—	1
CHILLATON .	1	—	1	—	1
BUCKLAND MONACHORUM .	12	1	6	5	9
GRENOFEN .	—	—	—	—	—
HORRABRIDGE .	43	3	32	8	36
LAMERTON .	4	1	1	2	4
LEWDOWN, KELLY AND STOWFORD .	2	—	1	1	2
LIFTON .	11	1	6	3	9
LYDFORD .	4	—	4	—	1
MARY TAVY .	6	—	6	—	4
MEAVY .	5	1	4	—	4
MILTON ABBOT .	4	2	2	1	4
PETER TAVY .	3	1	2	—	2
PRINCETOWN .	6	2	4	—	6
SAMPFORD SPINEY .	—	—	—	—	—
TAVISTOCK .	165	8	100	57	137
WALKHAMPTON .	6	1	3	2	5
YELVERTON .	29	1	21	7	25
MISCELLANEOUS .	9	2	6	1	7
<b>TOTAL .</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>277</b>

**Tavistock Rural District Council**  
**Council Accommodation as at 31st December, 1972**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Number of Dwellings</i>	<i>Total Number in Parish</i>
BERE FERRERS . .	BERE ALSTON .	150	—
	BERE FERRERS .	10	160
BRADSTONE . .	—	—	—
BRENTOR . . .	BRENTOR . .	14	14
BUCKLAND MONACHORUM	YELVERTON .	8	—
	BUCKLAND . .	50	58
CORYTON . . .	—	—	—
DUNTERTON . .	—	—	—
HORRABRIDGE . .	HORRABRIDGE .	127	127
KELLY . . .	KELLY . .	2	2
LAMERTON . . .	LAMERTON . .	35	35
LEWTRENCHARD . .	—	—	—
LIFTON . . .	LIFTON . .	66	66
LYDFORD . . .	LYDFORD . .	7	—
	PRINCETOWN .	24	31
MARYSTOWE . .	NEAR LEWDOWN .	3	3
MARY TAVY . .	MARY TAVY .	40	40
MEAVY . . .	MEAVY . .	10	10
MILTON ABBOT . .	CHILLATON .	16	—
	MILTON ABBOT .	8	24
PETER TAVY . .	PETER TAVY .	13	13
SAMPFORD SPINEY . .	SAMPFORD SPINEY	8	8
SHEEPSTOR . .	—	—	—
STOWFORD . . .	STOWFORD . .	4	4
SYDENHAM DAMAREL .	—	—	—
TAVISTOCK . .	TAVISTOCK .	477	477
TAVISTOCK HAMLETS .	TAVISTOCK HAMLETS	3	3
THRUSTELTON . .	LOBHILL . .	2	2
WALKHAMPTON . .	WALKHAMPTON .	37	37
WHITCHURCH . .	GRENOFEN . .	8	8
		1,122	1,122

## **SECTION "E"**

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

Food Hygiene visits continued to take place throughout the year and close attention was given to the many itinerant traders that frequent this area.

The customary inspection of all food stalls at the Goose Fair took place.

The principal food premises in the District are:—

Canteens	28
Fishmongers	4
Butchers	31
Dairies	14
General Stores	110
Bakehouses	7
Hotels and Guest Houses	57
Public Houses	44
Restaurants	36
Manufacturing Premises	7

### **MEAT INSPECTION**

A total of 17,785 animals were killed and inspected involving 483 visits to the slaughter houses.

Full details of the animals killed and inspected and the carcasses and part of organs condemned are shown in the following table:—

**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part**

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number Killed (if known)	2751	129	39	4398	10468
Number inspected . . .	2751	129	39	4398	10468
All diseases ex. Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: whole carcases condemned . . .	7	7	6	42	22
carcases of which some part or organ was condemned . . .	312	39	1	56	270
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	11.6	35.7	17.9	2.5	2.8
Tuberculosis only: whole carcases condemned . . .	—	—	—	—	—
carcases of which some part or organ was condemned . . .	—	—	—	—	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis . . .	—	—	—	—	0.1
Cysticercosis: carcases of which some part or organ was condemned . . .	1	—	—	—	—
carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration . . .	1	—	—	—	—
generalised and totally condemned . . .	—	—	—	—	—

## **SECTION "F"**

### **FACTORIES ACT, 1961**

The following is a summary of information in respect of the year 1972.

#### **PART 1 OF THE ACT**

1. Inspections for purposes of Provisions as to Health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors):

- (1) Factories without Mechanical Power (sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6)

Number on Register	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
--------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspections	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
-------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Written Notices	.	.	.	.	.	.	—
-----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Occupiers Prosecuted	.	.	.	.	.	.	—
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- (ii) Factories with Mechanical Power (section 7)

Number on Register	.	.	.	.	.	.	70
--------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Inspections	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
-------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Written Notices	.	.	.	.	.	.	—
-----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Occupiers Prosecuted	.	.	.	.	.	.	—
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- (iii) Other premises under the Act (section 7)

Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction (but excluding Outworkers' Premises)

Number on Register	.	.	.	.	.	.	29
--------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Inspections	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
-------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Written Notices	.	.	.	.	.	.	—
-----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Occupiers Prosecuted	.	.	.	.	.	.	—
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**2. Cases in which Defects were found:**

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	—	—	—	—	—

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work in August list required by section 133 (1) (c)	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Wearing Apparel (making etc.)	32	—	—	—	—	—









